

REMARKS

1. AgInfoLink Holdings, Inc. is the assignee of both the current patent application and the Curkendall patent.
2. The Curkendall patent does describe data livestock collection systems and methods which can be used to implement a portion of the methods and systems described in the current application.
3. The current application represents a non-obvious extension of livestock data collection and individual animal identification to specifically support the auction sale of “pre-certified” cattle. In the current application, this “certification” that cattle have been processed according to specified pre-conditioning guidelines is supported in two ways. First, the seller signs a certification form that the guidelines have been followed. Second, the actual data, such as dates of vaccinations, is provided in a manner that can be transferred to an electronic database in a manner that the data can be accessed from the animal identification code.
4. By contrast, Cobb teaches a breed registration form for dogs, where the seller signs the registration form. However this registration form is limited to information about the genealogy of the dog; the date of birth of the dog; a name of the dog; an optional microchip number for the dog; and the identity of the seller and buyer. No information is provided about the health of the dog, such as vaccination history. No information is provided about the background conditioning of the dog prior to sale. There is no suggestion in Cobb that the animal has been processed according to specified auction guidelines before the sale. Cobb does not teach livestock auctions. The seller is not signing the registration form to certify that pre-sale processing guidelines have been followed. Data is not provided to support required pre-sale

processing guidelines. Cobb's registration form is not a certification form as described in the current application.

5. This certification is important, because, unlike dogs, the cattle are food animals which will be further processed by the buyers (and subsequent buyers) and will eventually be consumed. The certification process helps ensure animal health, helps to avoid unnecessary treatments such as excess antibiotics, and provides information that may be used in subsequent investigation or analysis.
6. Cobb's registration form presumably supports a higher value for a dog because of proof of its genealogy or breed. One skilled in the art could presumably extend Cobb's teachings to perform a similar breed registration or proof of genealogy in cattle. However, proof of breed is not the essence of the current invention. In the current invention, the improved value to the seller and buyer is due to the certification (and supporting data) that pre-sale processing guidelines have been followed.
7. The current invention's combination of auction sale, pre-certification guidelines, individual animal identification, certification form, pre-certification data collection, and electronic databases is not obvious in view of the prior art cited by the examiner.
8. Applicant urges that all claims are in condition for allowance.

Thank you for your continued assistance in this application.


Dated: August 6, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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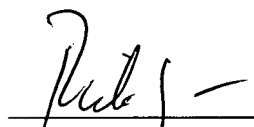

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